US-China Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy came into effect.

Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to States

*135. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an unanimous decision at the Chief Minister's Conference that the Centrally-sponsored schemes be transferred to the States;

(b) whether Government have concurred with this view; and

(c) if so, the time schedule for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) A Conference of the Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Services was held on 4-5 July, 1996. With regard to the transfer of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) it was observed:

(i) Centrally Sponsored Schemes have proliferated in various Ministries. These schemes reflect the initiatives these Ministries have taken to focus on certain areas of national concern. Some are big while some schemes have small provision. There is considerable centralisation, rigidity, delay and inequity in the administration of these schemes. In order to reflect appropriately the national priorities and to concentrate our efforts and resources on these priorities, the Conference suggested the streamlining of these Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(ii) All Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) relating to the seven Basic Minimum Services should be continued.

(iii) In addition, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in area of urban and rural poverty alleviation and employment, development of desert and drought prone areas, nutrition and for the welfare of SCs/STs/minorities and disabled persons of our society should be continued as such and States be given greater involvement, freedom and flexibility in the implementation of these programmes.

(iv) Provisions available under Centrally Sponsored Schemes other than those mentioned at (ii) and (iii) above should be pooled and basic State entitlement ratios should be worked out on the basis of allocations made to the States in 1995-96.

(b) and (c) At the last National Development Council (NDC) meeting, held in January, 1997 to discuss the Draft Approach to the Ninth Plan, several Chief Ministers reiterated their suggestion for transfer of CSS to the States alongwith resources. According to the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan, in principle, CSS should be confined to the schemes of an inter-State character, matters impinging on national security, selected national priorities where Central supervision is essential for effecitve implementation; and multi-State externally financed projects where Central coordination is necessary for operational reasons. After the NDC meeting the Planning Commission prepared a note on the transfer of CSS to states keeping in view the observations made by the Cheif Ministers at the NDC meeting and the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan. This note was sent to concerned Central Ministries/Departments and all States/UTs for their comments. Based on the replies received, a revised note on the subject is being processed for the consideration of the National Development Council (NDC). The proposal can be implemented only after approval by the NDC.

Development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources During Ninth Plan

*136. Dr. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to develop non-conventional energy sources